

Guidelines for Banding Operations

As you watch and admire birds in the wild, remember to look but not touch! Ordinarily it is against the law to touch any part of any wild bird (alive or not), except game birds during hunting season. This includes molted feathers. Students participating in the Chihuahuan Desert Lab have a rare, but legal opportunity to touch birds in the wild.

The Principal Investigator of the cave swallow study at Carlsbad Caverns National Park is Steve West. Mr. West is a certified bander and has a special permit from Carlsbad Caverns National Park that allows him to band cave swallows so that a baseline might be established. Mr. West may supervise a maximum of eight Chihuahuan Desert Lab students on a single banding date. He may appoint adult facilitators to assist with banding operations.

Guidelines include:

- Only the Principal Investigator bands the bird.
- Only the Principal Investigator measures the wings and tail.
- Only students that are appointed by the Principal Investigator will weigh birds.
- Only students that are appointed by the Principal Investigator will operate the vocal recorder.
- Students must release birds immediately after data has been recorded.
- Only eight Chihuahuan Desert Lab students will participate on a given date.
- No student will be required to perform a particular assignment before he/she feels comfortable with the assignment.

Cave Swallow Data Sheet #1**Carlsbad Cavern Cave Swallow Trip Summary # _____**

Banding Trip: _____ Date: _____ Pages: _____

Weather Conditions: (Temperature, Rainfall, Wind Speed & Direction, Cloud Coverage)

#	Participant's Name	Address, if this is your first trip this year
1		
2		
3		
4		
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12		
12		
14		
15		

Number of Nets: _____

	Net Time (24-hr. clock)	Location
#1		
#2		
#3		

of Retraps _____ + # of 1st Timers _____ = Total # Handled _____Total Number of Birds Handled _____ ÷ Minutes in Operations _____
= _____ X 60 = Number of Birds Per Net Hours: _____

Bat Flight (Description, include time flight began): _____

Cave Swallow Data Sheet #2
New Bird Data Sheet

Trip #: _____ Date: _____

	Band #	AHY	HY	L Wing	R Wing	Weight	BP	EB	Mud	Bug	Smell
1											
2											
3											
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Cave Swallows
Supplement 4.12

Cave Swallow Data Sheet #3

Retrap Summary Sheet

Trip #: _____ Date: _____

	Band Number	Original Banding Date	Times Recaught	Elapsed Days
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Cave Swallows
Supplement 4.13

Cave Swallow Data Sheet #4
Retrap Data Sheet

Trip #: _____ Date: _____

[illegible]Cave Swallows
Supplement 4.14

Banding Operations Checklist

In order to receive credit for participating in the Cave Swallow Banding Operations, the student must have performed adequately in the assignments listed. The Principal

Investigator will initial each assignment that the student has successfully completed. Students may need to participate in numerous field trips in order to experience all components.

Assignment	Date	Initials
Observe banding of birds.		
Observe wing and tail measurements being taken.		
Hold net poles.		
Remove birds from net.		
Observe birds for smells, insects, speckling, brood patch, etc.		
Record data.		
Release birds.		
Observe birds being weighed.		
Observe recording operations.		
Weigh birds. (OPTIONAL: Principal Investigator must approve.)		
Operate vocal recorder. (OPTIONAL: Principal Investigator must approve.)		